

CLAIMS:

1. A contracting method for making an electronic contract for provision of a commodity or service, comprising the steps of:

obtaining description data in which a description content presented to one concerned party is built or description specifying data for specifying said description content from the other concerned party of said contract before making said contract;

generating contract data containing said description data or said specifying data; and

prompting both or either of said concerned parties to write an electronic signature on said contract data.

2. A contracting method to be used by a covenantor for making a contract for provision of a commodity or service, comprising the steps of:

receiving a question or a request for said commodity or service from a covenantee who intends to conclude said contract through a network;

adding to a response to said question or request a covenantor's proof that said covenantor created said response;

sending said response with said covenantor's proof added thereto to said covenantee through the network;

storing said response with said covenantor's proof added thereto in at least one of storage units of

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said covenanter, said covenantee, and a third party;  
and

if said contract is concluded between said  
covenanter and said covenantee, creating an electronic  
contract with which said response with said  
covenanter's proof added thereto is made to correspond.

3. A contracting method as claimed in claim 2,  
wherein said response with said covenanter's proof  
added thereto includes a covenantee's proof that said  
covenantee agrees with said response.

4. A contracting method to be used by a  
covenanter for making a contract for provision of a  
commodity or service, comprising the steps of:

after a question or request for said  
commodity or service is received from a covenantee who  
intends to conclude said contract, outputting a  
response to said question or request to an output unit  
of said covenantee;

after obtaining the response with an  
electronic signature of said covenantee added thereto  
from said covenanter, concluding an electronic contract  
between said covenanter and said covenantee about said  
contract;

making the response correspond with said  
covenantee's electronic signature added thereto with  
the electronic contract document on said contract by  
using the inherent data in said response with said  
covenantee's electronic signature added thereto; and





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13. A storage unit to be used by at least one of the concerned parties for making a contract for provision of a commodity or service and a third party being characterized by:

storing/description data in which a description content about said commodity or service having been transferred between the concerned parties about said contract is built before concluding said contract; and

storing contract data in which said contract  
content is built; and

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a process for adding an electronic signature  
t one of said concerned parties to said  
ata in which said inherent data is built.

17. A recording medium as claimed in claim 15, wherein said process for building said inherent data is executed to calculate a hash value of said retrieved description data and to build the hash value of said description data in said contract data as said inherent data.

18. A recording medium as claimed in claim 15, wherein said contracting process includes a process for determining whether or not either of the electronic signatures of said concerned parties added to said description data is correct and a process for adding the electronic signature of the other concerned party to said description data if the electronic signature of one of said concerned parties added to said description data is determined to be correct.

19. A recording medium as claimed in claim 15,  
wherein said contracting process includes a process for

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21. A recording medium as claimed in claim 15, wherein said process for writing a signature on said contract data is executed to write said electronic signature on said contract data if a permission for adding said electronic signature to said contract data is received.

if both or either of the concerned parties who concluded the contract for provision of a commodity or service or a third party presents a given contract content, retrieving a description content about said given contract content from a storage unit for managing description data having the description content about said commodity or service having been transferred between the concerned parties and contract data having said contract content as making said description data



correspond with said contract data, before concluding said contract; and

determining if an electronic signature built in said retrieved description data is correct and verifying that said retrieved description content is presented from one of said concerned parties to the other when the contract between said concerned parties is being transferred.

23. A contract verifying method as claimed in claim 22, wherein a hash value of said description data is compared with a value derived by digitizing said electronic signature, for determining said electronic signature is correct.

24. A method for electronically transferring a contract for provision of a commodity or service, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a describing program for enabling concerned parties with said contract to describe a contract content on an electronic contract document or specifying data for specifying said describing program;

generating contract data containing said describing program or said specifying data; and

writing an electronic signature of both or either of said concerned parties on said contract data.

25. A contract processing system to be used by at least one of concerned parties who make a contract for provision of a commodity or service and a third party, comprising:

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a contract data signing process for adding a signature of at least one of concerned parties with said contract to contract data in which said program inherent data is built.